

PRESS RELEASE

June 16, 2006

33 YEAR OLD HAMBURG MAN CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

RE: UNITED STATES v. RANIER GEROW

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announces today the arrest of Ranier Gerow, 33, of Hamburg, New York on distribution of child pornography charges. In a single count criminal complaint, Gerow has been charged with distributing child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2). If convicted, Gerow faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five (5) years and a maximum term of imprisonment of twenty (20) years, a \$250,000 fine and a term of supervised release of any term of years, up to life.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison P. Gioia, who will be handling the case, stated that since April 2006, Gerow had been communicating with an undercover agent posing as a 13 year old girl. As alleged in the criminal complaint, during on-line conversations, Gerow asked an individual, who he believed to be a 13 year old girl, sexually explicit questions and sent this individual images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. During Gerow's initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Leslie G. Foschio this afternoon, Gioia stated that in his on-line and telephonic conversations with the undercover agent, Gerow and the undercover agent, posing as a 13 year old girl, discussed plans to meet at a hotel near Buffalo. Moreover, in an on-line conversation, Gerow told the undercover

agent, posing as a 13 year old girl, that he had recently had sex with an 8 year old girl. Based on the foregoing, Gioia asked Magistrate Judge Foschio to detain the defendant pending further court proceedings on the grounds that the defendant posed a danger to the community. Magistrate Judge Foschio ordered the defendant to remain in the custody of the United States Marshal pending a detention hearing scheduled for Monday, June 19, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. (Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)).

The arrest and charging of Gerow was coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Buffalo, New York, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter J. Smith.